

J. KELLY

Apr 2 21.24. ROSTON

xay 2

AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT

The General Led From the Right

By TOM KELLY

Gen. Edwin A. Walker yesterday hit me in the eye.

It was the high point of his appearance before the Senate Preparedness sub-committee, for me. Maybe not for him.

To use one of the General's own favorite words, I'll try to clarify what happened.

The General who'd been testifying all day Wednesday, returned yesterday to add a few words.

INFINITE PATIENCE

The sub-committee members also tried to clear up a few questions that had occurred to them overnight. Gen. Walker had, for example, denounced a number of books which can be found in Army libraries as being in accord with "competitive coexistence, which is fundamentally the communist line."

Sen. Howard Cannon (Dem., Nev.) asked, by one, if the General had read any of them. The General said he had not.

"I've had discussions about certain ones of them," he said.

Sen. J. I. Bartlett (D., Ala) asked, who belonged to the "apparatus" that the General said controlled the policy of the United States and which would "not tolerate militant anti-communist leadership by a Division Commander."

TV TARGETS

The General said he would name "who are opposed to a... of thinking... Constitution" after some rambling he named Dean Rusk and Walter J. Houston, "head of CIA operations arm."

The General then took over all by himself. He said he would like to make a statement "to clarify" some of his statements yesterday.

He talked at great length—not notably any more clearly than he had talked the day before.

"I was framed in a den of iniquity represented by a 'no-win' hidden policy of the State Department," he said at one point, a statement he'd made repeatedly before.

TOOK HIS POWS

When the General was finished and allowed to step down he shook hands with the sub-committee members, and several friends in the audience.

I tried to approach him with a question but he walked away.

A few minutes later when he was scribbling on a paper, apparently polishing a statement for the TV cameras, I approached him again.

I told him George Lincoln Rockwell, the head of the so-called American Nazi Party, had been quoted on the radio, praising him, and I asked the General if he'd like to discuss Rockwell.

"Go away. Can't you see I'm busy," he said, so I went away. A few minutes later he came out, read his statement for the TV cameras and walked off. I walked beside him and started to ask him once more about disavowing Rockwell. He turned and hit me in the left eye with his right fist.

His lawyer grabbed him and hustled him off.

And that, for whatever it means, is that.